



Spotlight on HED

Safety and Occupational Health Office

*Spotlighting an office that is helping make the Honolulu Engineer District
"The Best Place for the Best People to Work."*

Interview and photo by Michelle Cain

This month I talked with Jeff Cochran, HED's Chief, Safety and Occupational Health Office, to find out how his office contributes to the overall mission of the District.

Pacific Connection (PC): What are the responsibilities of the Safety Office?

Jeff Cochran (JC): The Safety & Occupational Health Office is responsible for reporting accidents and educating employees on how to prevent accidents through training, awareness and assessments. We strive for excellence in Safety and Occupational Health, providing support and services to all offices in the district and our external customers through training, performing inspections and ensuring safety is planned into all our processes with risk management techniques.

PC: How does the Safety Office impact on HED?

JC: The Safety Office impacts HED by assisting our employees with tools to use with safety & occupational briefings, holiday messages, providing safety training with videos, and special guest speakers for HED Safety Day. Our goal is zero accidents. Safety is everyone's responsibility by ensuring Safety as our number one priority in HED.

PC: Why is it important for the District to have a Safety Office?

JC: The importance for safety in the district is two-fold. One: To provide all our employees a safe place to work, free

from recognizable hazards. Two: To reduce workers compensation cost for our district by integrating risk management into our daily lives. The best way is to use as a model an activity hazard analysis, which first of all identifies the principal steps involved and the sequence of work activities. Second, we analyze each step for potential hazards that may exist prior to doing a task and develop specific controls for each potential hazard. This includes training, equipment and inspection requirements. If we do this on all tasks, we will plan safety into our regular duties and when it comes to actually doing the work it should be done in a safe manner.

PC: Who does the Safety Office deal with outside of HED?

JC: We deal with contractors, their employees, other federal agencies, and the general public.

PC: How does the Safety Office interact with customers and contractors?

JC: We share information freely with them electronically using our new Intranet and Internet network. Our customers can go into our web site and electronically view our safety and health regulations from EM 385-1-1, U.S. Army Safety and Health Requirements Manual, and other safety related training sites. We interact telephonically, reviewing accident prevention plans and answering questions and concerns over Safety and Health related issues. Also, we provide services to our customers in the proper selection of personal protective equipment and clothing. We are proactive with our customers and contractors awarding them with safety certificates for jobs done safely without any injuries or safe performance observed on the spot during safety oversight visits.



HED's safety office is responsible for ensuring the safety of HED's employees and its contractors. Here, Jeff Cochran, HED safety officer, shows workers at Bldg. 502 how to perform a task in a safer manner.

We're Americans; we don't walk around terrified. We're going to move forward with pride and with determination. —Secretary of State Colin Powell